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DCI/IC 74-1090

14 August 1974

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

VIA : Admiral Harvey

SUBJECT : NSC Staff Briefings

1. On 8 August 1974, I was asked to brief members of the National Security Council Staff on the activities of the Intelligence Community Staff. Since that was the day that President Nixon resigned and said farewell to his Cabinet Officers and White House Staff, the briefing was postponed until further notice.

2. Although the briefing was not given, I did take the opportunity to discuss with  (a member of the NSC Staff and Dr. Kissinger's coordination and liaison officer on all intelligence matters affecting the NSC) the current NSC Staff organization and operation. In addition, we discussed how that Staff received intelligence products, what they were told, upon assignment, about the Intelligence Community and the process of requesting intelligence support for foreign policy analysis, etc.

3. Based upon that discussion and previous contact with other members of the NSC Staff prior to my current assignment, I can only conclude that the majority of the staff:

a. never received a briefing on the Intelligence Community, even in the broadest of terms,

b. know little about the intelligence process or the various kinds of intelligence products and how to request them, and

c. would appreciate specific information on the same.

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4. It seems apparent to me, that the consumers of national intelligence at the NSC level are more than casually influenced by their staffs impressions of the product and process. Given this, I think we should take this opportunity to be as open, honest and direct as possible in providing the kind of information necessary for the NSC's work. Since it is the purpose of the DCI to provide intelligence support to the President and the NSC in the formulation of national security policy, it is essential that those on the NSC Staff, who assist Dr. Kissinger, be very familiar with the capabilities and legal limitations of the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Community.

5. Therefore, I recommend that we propose to [ ] the Agency's representative on the NSC Staff, the following:

a. That all new NSC Staff personnel receive an orientation briefing on the Intelligence Community--its organization and operations.

b. That the IC Staff prepare such a briefing to include, on an individual basis, backup material of special interest to the individual NSC staffer, i.e. telephone numbers, publication series, etc.

c. That the IC Staff maintain continued contact with the new Staff personnel to update the information materials provided.

6. I would hope that [ ] would welcome this opportunity on the part of the IC Staff to assist him and that he would encourage a close cooperation between the NSC Staff and IC Staff.

7. In conclusion, it is imperative, in my view, that we know as much about our national intelligence consumers and their staffs operations as possible, and that in turn, they know as much as necessary about the Intelligence Community, for the successful accomplishment of their important work.

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